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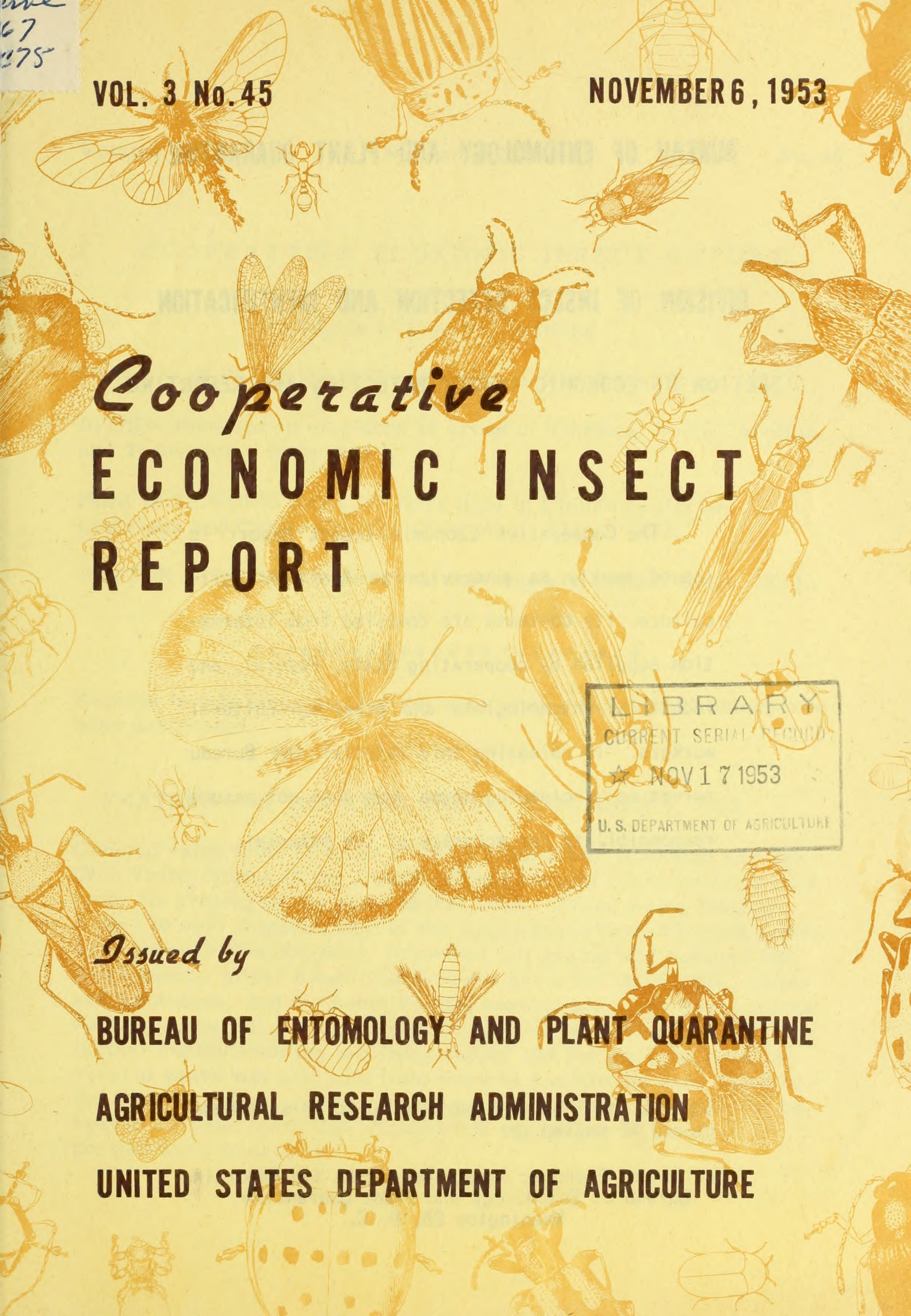

VOL. 3 No. 45

NOVEMBER 6, 1953

Cooperative ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

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DIVISION OF INSECT DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

SECTION OF ECONOMIC INSECT DETECTION AND REPORTING

The Cooperative Economic Insect Report is issued weekly as a service to American Agriculture. Its contents are compiled from information supplied by cooperating State, Federal, and industrial entomologists and other agricultural workers. In releasing this material the Bureau serves as a clearing house and does not assume responsibility for accuracy of the material.

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Section of Economic Insect Detection and Reporting
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
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Volume 3 November 6, 1953 No. 45

COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

Highlights of Insect Conditions

Summary of FRUIT INSECT conditions in New York. (page 776).

APHIDS abundant on crucifers in areas of Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. (page 778).

PINK BOLLWORM found for first time in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana and Carter County, Oklahoma. (page 780).

COTTON STEM MOTH survey in northeastern states. (page 780).

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Reports in this issue are for the week ending October 30 unless otherwise designated.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 1953

General rains from October 27 to 29 from lower Michigan and the Ohio Valley States to the Atlantic Coast brought considerable relief from the prolonged dry spell in that area. These rains totaling from 1 to over 3 inches east of the Applachians from Virginia northward through New England, improved fall grains and reduced the fire hazard. Other beneficial showers occurred in Florida, Texas and Louisiana, and the north Pacific coastal area. In Texas where soaking rains fell during the previous week, additional showers further replenished the moisture supply and for the first time in several years wet soil held field work to a minimum over much of the State; however, prospects for grains and cover crops were the best in several years and commercial vegetables in the southern portion were improved.

Dry, sunny weather prevailed in the remainder of the Country. In the central Great Plains and Midwest, rains of the past two weeks, while beneficial to fall crops, have not been sufficient in many sections to restore subsoil moisture and replenish low water supplies. The week was 3° to 5° cooler than normal in southern areas from Texas and Oklahoma to the Atlantic Coast. Minimum temperatures in the 30's and 40's were recorded in most of this area on the 30th, and freezing which occurred in central and northern Mississippi was a few days earlier than the normal date. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the remainder of the Country, and weekly averages ranged from 6° to 10° above normal in the northwestern Great Plains. (Summary Supplied by U. S. Weather Bureau).

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WEATHER BUREAU'S 30-DAY OUTLOOK

*November 1953

The Weather Bureau's 30-day outlook for November calls for temperatures to average above normal over the eastern third of the nation, below normal over the western third, and about normal over central portions. Precipitation is expected to exceed normal over most of the country east of the Continental Divide except in the South Atlantic States where near normal amounts are indicated. West of the Continental Divide about normal precipitation is predicted except for subnormal amounts in the Pacific Northwest.

*This report released by the Weather Bureau on October 30, 1953.

Weather forecast given here is based on the official 30 day "Resume and Outlook," published twice a month by the Weather Bureau. You can subscribe through Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price: $4.80 a year, $2.40 for six months.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

APHIDS ON GRASS - FLORIDA - Major species injurious to pangola grass pastures, yellow sugarcane aphid (*Sipha flava*) and greenbug ((*Toxoptera graminum*), beginning to appear on pangola grass in the Everglades. Corn leaf aphid (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*) infestation light on crab, carib and para grasses. Light numbers of rusty plum aphid (*Hysteroneura setariae*) on crabgrass and para grass; somewhat larger populations on goosegrass. In view of past few seasons a heavy population of *Sipha flava* can be anticipated within a few weeks on pangola grass. *Toxoptera graminum* may also become injurious again. In the Everglades this species principally attacks pangola grass and oats grown for winter grazing. (Genung).

A SPIDER MITE (*Paratetranychus pratensis*) - ARIZONA - Severe on grain sorghum at Yuma. General but not severe at Phoenix and Buckeye. (McCain, Bibby, Zimmer).

A WHITEFLY (*Aleurocybotus* n. sp.) - ARIZONA - Light general infestation on grain sorghum in Maricopa County. (Bibby).

CLOVER SEED CHALCID (*Bruchophagus gibbus*) - ARIZONA - Counts high in alfalfa seed fields at the end of a severe chalcid season at Yuma. (McCain).

CORN EARWORM and FALL ARMYWORM infestations have declined sharply on corn and grain sorghum at Yuma, ARIZONA. (McCain).

GREEN JUNE BEETLE (*Cotinis nitida*) - TENNESSEE - Larvae severely attacking pasture lands in extreme eastern tip of State. (Mullett).

CORN EARWORM (*Heliothis armigera*) - OREGON - Injured some early-market sweet corn in Willamette Valley, but damage to late-maturing corn running only about 1 percent in the central valley. Tip injury usually 5 percent or more in late September and October. (Crowell).

CORN LEAF APHID (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*) - UTAH - Damage to corn scattered and below average this season. (Knowlton).

FALSE WIREWORMS - UTAH - Less damaging than usual this season in dryland wheat in Juab and Tooele Counties. Also less abundant in other areas. (Knowlton).

FRUIT INSECTS

Summary Fruit Insect Conditions in NEW YORK, 1953:

Fruit insect activity during the past season was kept well under control, in general, by growers. CODLING MOTH (*Carpocapsa pomonella*) was somewhat more active than usual due to the hot, dry weather and appeared in a number of orchards where it ordinarily is not a problem. Small numbers of RED-BANDED LEAF ROLLER (*Argyrotaenia velutinana*) could still be found in October in many orchards throughout the State. Both of these pests are, therefore, going into the winter in sufficient numbers to constitute a threat next season if conditions are favorable. APPLE MAGGOT (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) activity was markedly reduced in 1953 in comparison with the years 1950 through 1952. PLUM CURCULIO (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*) was heavier than usual due to a difficult timing situation, thus a moderate carry-over of hibernating adults is expected. SPIDER MITES (*Metatetranychus ulmi* and *Tetranychus* spp.) were quite active during the season requiring spray applications in most orchards. An outbreak of a SPOTTED TENTIFORM LEAF MINER occurred in Columbia County The pest is normally found in the State in small numbers; however, in this area the second and third broods built up to such an extent that economic damage occurred in a number of orchards. Examinations showed no parasites or predators. Parasites have been very active in keeping this pest under control in the past. An increase in the activity of CHERRY MAGGOTS (*Rhagoletis fausta* and *R. cingulata*) occurred in the western New York sour cherry section. GRAPE FLEA BEETLE (*Altica chalybea*) increased also in the Chautauqua-Erie grape belt. An insect identified as *Aristotelia disconotella* was discovered recently boring in crowns of strawberries in a number of locations in Oswego County. This pest has been reported but once (1944) in the State and has never been reported as causing economic damage. EUROPEAN APPLE SAWFLY (*Hoplocampa testudinea*) has spread very little beyond 1952 boundaries. The most northern point of advance is in northern Dutchess County in the village of North Red Hook. The pest has continued to spread within the present area of known infestation; although economic damage in 1953 was very slight. (LaPlante).

A GRAPE LEAFHOPPER (Erythroneura variabilis) - ARIZONA - Severe in untreated vineyards at Yuma. (McCain).

GREEN PEACH APHID (Myzus persicae) - WASHINGTON - Large populations, including alates, on peach foliage at Wenatchee, October 23. (Johansen).

APPLE MAGGOT (Rhagoletis pomonella) - MARYLAND - Very heavy infestation in bushel of apples, which originated in poorly-treated orchard in Spencerville. (Haviland, Oct. 21).

TRUCK CROP INSECTS

Beet Leafhopper Outbreak in Kansas: An investigation of the beet leafhopper (Circulifer tenellus) situation in the Garden City and Scott City, Kansas, areas was made from September 12-14. Beet leafhopper populations were very low on both sugar beets and Russian-thistle. Obvious curly top at Garden City and Scott City averaged 28 and 63 percent, respectively. The summer weed hosts were Russian-thistle and kochia. The anticipated low yield of sugar beets in some fields is evidently a result of several adverse factors working together, including curly top, root rot, deficient or incorrect irrigation, and poor cultural practices. On basis of research conducted from 1928-36, it is believed that beet leafhopper breeding areas in southern New Mexico and western Texas served as the source from which the insects spread northward to western Kansas. (Haeussler).

CABBAGE LOOPER, BEET ARMYWORM, and CORN EARWORM infestations declining on lettuce and other vegetables at Yuma and Phoenix, ARIZONA. (Hammers, McCain).

VEGETABLE WEEVIL (Listroderes costirostris obliquus) - FLORIDA - First of the fall season in Gadsden County noted on turnip greens, October 28. (May).

APHIDS - VIRGINIA - Cabbage aphids numerous and injurious on unprotected collards in Norfolk area, and well distributed over plantings of kale, though not much injury to this crop. Light numbers of turnip aphid and green peach aphid on young kale. Green peach aphid also appearing on spinach. (Brubaker, Greenwood, Hofmaster). SOUTH CAROLINA - Turnip aphid moderately abundant on turnips in Charleston area. (Cuthbert). TENNESSEE - Cabbage aphids appearing in large numbers on isolated plants of cabbage and collards in Clarksville area. Occasional plants show severe injury. (Scott). ARIZONA - Scarce on vegetables at Phoenix, but winged migrants more numerous than last year at Yuma. (Hammers, McCain).

CABBAGE CATERPILLARS - SOUTH CAROLINA - Light to moderate populations of cabbage looper on cole crops in Charleston County. Infestations increasing. Imported cabbageworm and corn earworm light on these crops. (Cuthbert). VIRGINIA - Imported cabbageworm moths very numerous in Norfolk area. Oviposition heavy on practically all types of crucifers. Larvae causing severe injury in improperly treated plantings. Some cabbage loopers also present. (Brubaker, Greenwood, Hofmaster).

BEAN LEAF ROLLER (*Urbanus proteus*) - FLORIDA - Moderate increase on sanp beans in Gadsden County area. (May).

MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE (*Epilachna varivestis*) - VIRGINIA - Still infesting late beans in Norfolk area, but most plantings protected. (Brubaker, Greenwood, Hofmaster).

POTATO PSYLLID (*Paratrioza cockerelli*) - UTAH - Adults abundant on field of potatoes, worthless from psyllid yellows, at Springville, September 23. Adults continued abundant in celery fields in several areas through mid-October. This pest more numerous over much of State than for several years. (Knowlton).

LEAF MINERS - SOUTH CAROLINA - Moderate to heavy infestations on cucurbits throughout October in Charleston area. These insects much more abundant than usual this fall. (Cuthbert).

WIREWORMS - SOUTH CAROLINA - Moderate injury, apparently by these insects, noted on sweetpotatoes being harvested in Charleston area. (Cuthbert).

SWEETPOTATO WEEVIL (*Cylas formicarius elegantulus*) - MISSISSIPPI - Found in Jefferson Davis and Lawrence Counties recently. (Hunsucker).

SALT-MARSH CATERPILLAR (*Estigmene acrea*) - ARIZONA - Migration from cotton to lettuce and other vegetables apparently increased by cool weather, but barriers usually effective at Phoenix and Yuma. (Hammers, McCain).

STRAWBERRY WHITEFLY (*Trialeurodes packardi*) -UTAH - Some strawberry fields heavily attacked in Cache County. (Knowlton, Oct. 8).

FULLER ROSE BEETLE (*Pantomorus godmani*) - OREGON - Causing localized damage to ornamentals and shrubbery in Coos County. (Every).

PESTS ON CHRYSANTHEMUM - PENNSYLVANIA - Commercial planting of chrysanthemums in Eire County infested by green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*), chrysanthemum aphid (*Macrosiphoniella sanborni*), and two-spotted spider mite (*Tetranychus bimaculatus*). Chrysanthemum aphid abundant. (Adams). MISSISSIPPI - Spider mites damaging chrysanthemums locally in Lee County. (Cochran).

COTTON INSECTS

Bollworm Identifications from Arizona: Sixteen of 25 lots of bollworm larvae collected throughout cotton areas from July 28 to September 15 have been identified by L. D. Newsom. These specimens consisted of 196 *Heliothis armigera* and 1 *H. virescens*. The *H. virescens* was collected on cotton at Sahuarita, July 31. (Kauffman, Stevenson).

Cotton Stem Moth Survey:

A voluntary cooperative survey was made in June, July, and August, 1953 to preliminarily determine the distribution of the cotton stem moth (Platyedra vilella) which had first been collected in the United States in 1951 at Mineola, Long Island, New York. (See CEIR, Vol. 2, No. 32, p. 414). The larvae commonly infest hollyhock seeds and stems so observations were largely made on plants of that species. Specimens of this insect were identified from sixteen widespread locations on Long Island, New York; at Branford and New Britain, Connecticut; and at Brockton and Manchester, Massachusetts. In many instances infestations were severe and many hollyhock plants were destroyed or nearly destroyed. State and Federal employees and some individual entomologists made observations in the following states in addition to the three mentioned above: Delaware, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Additional early-season observations should be made in 1954 in the states south of New York to supplement the later observations that were made there this year. (Shockley).

PINK BOLLWORM (Pectinophora gossypiella) - Gin trash inspections have been completed in ALABAMA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, and SONORA, MEXICO with no infestations having been found. Inspections nearing completion in TENNESSEE and MISSISSIPPI and will continue for some time in ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA and BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO. All results have been negative in these states. Four inspection parties continue work in north and west TEXAS, three in LOUISIANA and three in OKLAHOMA.

The first pink bollworm to be found in a new area this season was collected from gin trash in Lincoln Parish, LOUISIANA on October 13. This was followed by one specimen from Claiborne Parish on October 21. As of Oct. 30, four pink bollworms have been collected from Lincoln Parish and one from Claiborne Parish. The first finding of the season in OKLAHOMA, outside of the regulated area, consisted of one pink bollworm collected in Carter County on October 22. Within the regulated area of TEXAS, the counties in the extreme northeast, in general, show a slight decrease from 1952 and those in the north-central show from a definite to slight increase. (White).

COTTON APHID (*Aphis gossypii*) - ARIZONA - Moderate to severe in many cotton fields at Yuma. (McCain).

A LEAF ROLLER (*Platynota stultana* ?) -ARIZONA - Seriously damaging top crop of bolls in Buckeye area. Injury resulting in rot in some fields. (Zimmer).

INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

LIVESTOCK FLIES - FLORIDA - Adult horse fly and deer fly activity at a minimum following cool, rainy weather during week of October 5-10. No troublesome populations known in any area. (Jones, Oct. 16). TEXAS - Horn fly populations becoming sporadic in southwest area because of fluctuation in temperatures. (Smith, Oct. 23).

SCREW-WORM (*Callitroga hominivorax*) - FLORIDA - Infestations in Warren and Hinds Counties continue about same intensity as in August. Infestations in counties to the north appear to have become intensified but there has been very little spread. Tunica County reports a relatively heavy infestation. Infestations appear to have originated from cattle imported from South Texas. (Skipper). TEXAS - Cases back to normal in southwest area by mid-October. (Smith).

TICKS - TEXAS - Populations extremely low in southwest area. (Smith, Oct. 23). OKLAHOMA - Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) unusually abundant for time of year in northeastern area. From ten to twenty replete ticks per animal on most animals in wooded pastures. (Howell).

COMMON CATTLE GRUB (*Hypoderma lineatum*) - OKLAHOMA - Infesting cattle in most areas of western Oklahoma. (Howell).

STORED-PRODUCTS INSECTS

INDIAN-MEAL MOTH (*Plodia interpunctella*) - ARIZONA - Infesting dried prunes at Yuma. (McCain).

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Parasitism of southern green stink bug (Nezara viridula) by a tachinid (Trichopoda pennipes) ranges between 5 and 50 percent (possibly averaging 20 percent) in Northwest FLORIDA-South GEORGIA area. Parasites being collected for introduction into Australia. (Simmonds, Commonwealth Inst. Biol. Cont.).

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

A WASP (Polistes exclamans exclamans) - ARIZONA - Serious pest at some Phoenix residences. (Bibby).

BOXELDER BUG (Leptocoris trivittatus) - TENNESSEE - Numerous infestations reported over State. (Mullett).

A WEEVIL (Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus) - OREGON - Several inquiries concerning migration into homes. Such inquiries have not been received for several years. (Every).

RECENT IMPORTANT INTERCEPTIONS AT PORTS OF ENTRY

The risk of introducing a new, serious insect pest of potatoes into the United States was emphasized recently by the interception of two living larvae of a South American potato weevil, Premnotrypes sp., at Boston. Plant Quarantine Inspector Hodson found the grubs amid refuse at the bottom of an open spud locker situated on the ship's deck. A total of three species, fractirostris, latithorax, and solani, has been taken on at least six occasions in the last five years. The fact that males are not required in the reproduction of many weevil species makes the introduction of only one individual dangerous. (Ramsay).